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COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS AND RELATED MATTERS

Assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Note by the Administrator

I. BACKGROUND

1. In its decision 93/20 of 18 June 1993, the Governing Council approved the second extension of the fourth country programme for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) to 31 December 1993. In its decision 94/10 of 13 May 1994, the Executive Board authorized the Administrator to approve projects for the Democratic Republic of the Congo on a case-by-case basis within the financial limitations of its established indicative planning figure framework. It was also agreed, as noted in document DP/1994/21, that the situation would be reviewed on a continuing basis and that regular country programming would be resumed as soon as conditions permit.

2. The programme has been reviewed regularly and an in-depth evaluation was undertaken in March 1998. The Assistant Administrator and Director, UNDP Africa, gave an oral report to the Executive Board at its third regular session 1998.

II. JUSTIFICATION

3. As a result of persistent crisis, it has not been possible for the Government to prepare a country cooperation framework. Furthermore, the United Nations Development Group agencies have agreed to harmonize their programme cycles starting in the year 2000. Given the current situation, the Administrator is requesting the Executive Board to authorize him to continue to provide support to the country on a project-by-project basis until the situation improves and permits normal programming.

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4. With the authorization of the Executive Board, UNDP will pursue programmes in the following areas: (a) agriculture and rural development; (b) public and economic management; (c) protection and management of the environment; (d) support to the social sectors and to the private sector. To the extent possible, the overall objective will be to empower the most vulnerable groups to achieve sustainable human development. Support to emergency relief and humanitarian assistance will be provided to the population affected by the crisis and will be considered as a priority for UNDP during 1999.

5. The Administrator assures the Executive Board that the situation will be reviewed on a continuing basis and that regular country programming will be resumed as soon as conditions permit.

III. EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

6. The Executive Board may wish to:

Authorize the Administrator to continue to approve assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo on a project-by-project basis consistent with the rules, regulations and normal criteria of UNDP until such time as it is deemed appropriate to return to normal programming.